



The Gambler  
written by Don Schlitz  
made famous by Kenny Rogers in 1978

The song lyrics

On a warm summer's eve  
On a train bound for nowhere  
I met up with the gambler  
We were both too tired to sleep  
So we took turns starin'  
Out the window at the darkness  
The boredom overtook us,  
And he began to speak

He said, "Son, I've made a life  
Out of readin' people's faces  
Knowin' what the cards were  
By the way they held their eyes  
So if you don't mind me sayin'  
I can see you're out of it  
For a taste of your whiskey  
I'll give you some advice"

So I handed him my bottle  
And he drank down my last swallow  
Then he bummed a cigarette  
And asked me for a light  
And the night got deathly quiet  
And his face lost all expression  
He said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy  
You gotta learn to play it right"